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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 6 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, JULY, 1924 NUMBER 7

JULY MEETING: Following the established practice, there will be no meeting of the Association indoors this month. The August meeting is devoted to an exchange of field notes taken during the vacation season. Almost everyone of our travelling members will encounter some new bird or witness some occurrence of interest connected with birds. If such is *your* good fortune in the meanwhile, will you not bring a report of it to the August meeting and let the other members share in your pleasure? These experience meetings have been among the most enjoyable in the past. Let us try to make this one the best of all,—a large attendance, with some contribution from each.

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JULY FIELD TRIP will be taken on Sunday, July 13th, to Claremont Hotel grounds and to the summit of the old Fish Ranch road, Berkeley, returning along the ridge on the southerly side of Strawberry Canyon.

San Francisco members will take the 8:40 a. m. Key Route boat and Claremont train to the end of the line. East Bay members may take cars on lines 3, 4, or 5, transferring east on Ashby Ave., or line 6, transferring east on Russell St., and ride to the end of the line at the hotel.

Party will form at entrance to hotel grounds on arrival of Key train at 9:20 a. m. Bring lunch and canteens. There is no water on the ridge. Leader, Mr. C. R. Thomas.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE JUNE MEETING: The eighty-ninth regular meeting of the Association was held on June 12th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Mrs. Kibbe, secretary pro tem; sixteen members and five guests in attendance.

Mr. Lastreto reported that he had received no reply to his communication and appeal to President Fleishacker, of the Park Commission, in the matter of publishing a list of the birds to be encountered in Golden Gate Park. Mr. Grueningen suggested the name of another commissioner, and Mr. Lastreto undertook to make further inquiries and report at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Lastreto then referred to the failure of the Lower Klamath Lake Reclamation, from an agricultural standpoint, and the hopes expressed for its restoration as a breeding ground and refuge for the myriads of birds which formerly swarmed there. The secretary read from a Stockton paper kindly furnished by Mrs. Delport, an article by Dr. H. C. Bryant in which the former and present conditions were contrasted. On the motion of Mr. Lastreto, it was determined to ascertain from Dr. Bryant what steps the Association might take in support of the proposition for restoration of the lake and marshes.

The secretary then read an appeal from Fish and Game Commissioner Newbert for support of the initiative measure put forth for the preservation of the Klamath River as spawning grounds for rainbow trout and salmon. Two members had already signed such a petition and twelve others expressed a desire to do so.

The feature of the evening consisted of an account by Mrs. M. E. Delport of the Bird Population at Glenbrook Nevada, on the east shore of Lake Tahoe, as observed by her between June 15 and Sept. 1, 1923. The lecturer described the conditions existing, and the nature study program followed for the benefit of guests of the Glenbrook Hotel, and demonstrated the propriety of such efforts by detailing opportunities which had arisen for the correction of some quaint conceptions entertained by visitors.

Especially notable were visits from a gray jay and phainopepla. Other birds noted were: California gull, Forster tern. black tern, white pelican and merganser; great blue heron, spotted sandpiper, kildeer, mountain quail and mourning dove; turkey vulture, sharp-shinned, Cooper, red-tailed and Swainson hawks; prairie falcon, sparrow hawk, long-eared (?), spotted and pygmy owls; kingfisher, Cabanis and Arctic three-toed woodpeckers, red-shafted flicker, red-breasted sapsucker; Pacific nighthawk, Anna and Calliope hummers, olive-sided flycatcher and western wood pewee; western and Traill flycatchers, black-billed magpie, blue-fronted jay and Clark nutcracker; bi-colored redwing, Brewer blackbird, Cassin purple finch and green-backed goldfinch; western lark, white-crowned and western chipping sparrows, sierra junco and song sparrow; fox sparrow, green-tailed towhee, lazuli bunting, western tanager and cliff swallow; western warbling and Cassin vireos; Calaveras, yellow and Audubon warblers; Tolmie and pileolated warblers, rock and house wrens and sierra creeper; slender-billed and red-breasted nuthatches, mountain chickadee, ruby-crowned kinglet and Townsend solitaire; western robin and western bluebird. Sixty eight species.

Mrs. Delport's interesting story was appreciated by all who had the pleasure of listening to it.

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LOWER KLAMATH LAKE,—OR BARREN?

Anyone who may be able to inundate fertile agricultural lands and keep the water there, can thereby create a lake. Many ill-advised reclamation projects have had their genesis in the hypothesis that the converse is also true. Events of the few years just past have placed the country in the way of learning two things: *First*. that swamps and marshes which furnish shelter and breeding grounds for wild fowl and fur bearing mammals constitute assets of real and material value, for which there exist no substitutes, and *Second*, that the drainage of inundated lands may ruin them for these purposes without making them available for agriculture or realizing any other advantage commensurable with the cost of reclamation and the loss resulting from the disappearance of the wild life formerly sustained there. In California, a notable example of such an economic blunder is furnished by the drainage of Lower Klamath Lake, which fifteen years ago supported vast numbers of wild fowl, constituting what Dr. H. C. Bryant terms "one of the very best breeding grounds found in the United States." In 1917 a reclamation district was formed, against the protest of the Director of the service; the water supply was cut off; the lake dried up and today we find an alkali waste of 80,000 acres, less than *one-half of one per cent* of which is supporting a crop of rye grass!

Here is work for conservationists, sportsmen, bird-lovers. The alkali-poisoned pools which have developed in the San Joaquin valley are bad enough, but there have been compensations. At Lower Klamath Lake there have been none, whatever. If there is any way to accomplish the restoration

of the lake, we must bring this about. It is believed that this can be achieved by the force of aroused public sentiment. As a preliminary move, it has been suggested that interested parties should address individual letters to Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies, 1974 Broadway, New York, N. Y., protesting against the further waste of this area and expressing their earnest hope that steps will be taken as soon as possible, looking to the restoration of the water to this area and to the re-establishment of the bird preserve of 22,400 acres established here in 1908 by President Roosevelt.

The officers of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will secure data upon which to base further action, but in the meanwhile, members are urged to co-operate as indicated above.

A. S. Kibbe.

PAUL J. RAINEY MEMORIAL SANCTUARY

Forty Square Miles More of Louisiana Territory Dedicated to the Birds.

Announcement was made on June 21st, by Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Association of Audubon Societies, that a region of approximately 26,000 acres of marsh land situated in Vermilion Parish, Louisiana, has been presented to the Association as a bird sanctuary by Mrs. Grace Rogers, sister of the late Paul J. Rainey, world-renowned hunter, photographer and explorer.

It is bounded on the east by the State Wild Life Refuge and on the west by the hunting marshes of Edward A. McIlhenny, comprises two-thirds of the former Rainey-McIlhenny shooting preserve, and constitutes the very heart of that famous winter gathering place for wild fowl on the coast of Louisiana.

Not only will this magnificent contribution to the cause of wild-life conservation be guarded carefully against all hunters, but every effort will be made to render the place attractive to wild fowl which, especially in winter, frequent the region in vast numbers. Arrangements are being made for the immediate planting of duck food in large quantities and ducks once attracted here will never be frightened away by the roar of guns.

It is understood that Mrs. Rogers has not only thus created the Paul J. Rainey Wild Life Sanctuary, but she has also given the Association sufficient funds to develop and maintain the territory in perpetuity as a haven for wild bird life.

BOOK NOTICES

Animal Life in the Yosemite. By Joseph Grinnell and Tracy I. Storer. xviii+752 pp. Full page plates, 12 in color and 48 half-tones. Numerous figures in text. 2 maps. University of California Press. $7.50.

A very full, readable and otherwise satisfactory account of a biological survey of a seventeen-mile belt, constituting a typical cross-section of the Sierra Nevada, from the eastern margin of the San Joaquin Valley to, and around, Mono Lake. This dealt with the life zones, mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians, their field characters, occurrence and habits. The colored distributional charts are especially striking, compact and effective. The colored plates, by Allan Brooks, depict groups of animals in such a way as to afford helpful comparisons.

The book is in every way a fitting companion to the "Game Birds of California," with which it is uniform in size and make-up. It will be indispensable to anyone seeking reliable data within its scope.

Beach Grass. By Charles Wendell Townsend. Boston. Marshall Jones Co. xii+319 pp. 82 half-tone plates. $3.50.

A book for Nature lovers by one who is devoted to her in all her manifestations, and who has a rare faculty of sharing his delights and other sensations with his readers. The scenes are laid for the most part among the dunes and along the beaches in the vicinity of Ipswich, Massachusetts. Five of the twelve chapters deal with birds; a third of the beautiful illustrations show tracks in the sand of mammals, birds or bugs, and the accompanying text is replete with skillful interpretations of their import. The simple, straightforward diction of the author, and his instinctive enjoyment of, and adaptability to, his surroundings, remind one frequently of John Muir in his happiest manifestations.

Anyone who has been familiar with the settings of any of these chapters will delight in traversing them with the author. One to whom they are strange will long to visit and revel in them himself.

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JUNE FIELD TRIP was taken on Sunday, the 15th, to Tennessee Cove, by way of the high bluffs to the north, where lunch was eaten in such shelter as was afforded by the chaparral. The day was beautiful and bright, but there was a brisk breeze blowing off the ocean. The fog kept away, as desired, but the only cormorants observed were a pair of Brandts, which were apparently nesting just around the corner of the cliff to the south.

A trip down to the ocean was made by a portion of the party, which then wended its way along the crest and down to the cove, whence the members found their way homeward as the spirit seized them. The last section loitered until 5:40, enjoying the scene as long as they might.

Birds encountered were: Western gull, Brandt cormorant, three flocks of brown pelicans, an unidentified duck and the Manzanita great blue heron, as usual; California quail, turkey vulture, sharp-shinned, red-tailed and sparrow hawks; Anna and Allen hummers, black phoebe, western flycatcher and horned lark; coast and California jays, crow, bi-colored redwing and meadowlark; Brewer blackbird, purple finch, linnet, willow and green-backed goldfinches; a pair of Lawrence gold-finches, nest and young; western savannah, Nuttall and song sparrows, San Francisco and California towhees; a pair of black-headed grosbeaks, taking turns at brooding two young and two eggs; cliff swallow, vireo, lutescent warbler and a family of pileolated warblers; Vigors wren, a house wren family, chickadee, wren-tit, russet-backed thrush and western bluebird. Forty two species.

Members in attendance: Mesdemoiselles Fritts, Rhine and Sterne; Mesdames Kibbe and Witt; Messrs. Grueningen, Kibbe, Thomas, Ananda and Eric Jacobs. As guests: Mesdemoiselles Sylvia and Phyllis Bastain, Engebretsen, Weedle, Gilkie and Markham; Mesdames Varney and Ward; Mr. Lloyd, Felix Jacobs, Nathan Varney, Henry Pollock and another scout. Ten members and thirteen guests.

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

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Meets second Thursday of each month, at 8:00 p.m., in Assembly Hall of San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets.

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Subscription to Bulletin alone, 35c per year. Single copies 5c